

REMARKS

Claims 1-11 are currently pending in the subject application, and are presently under consideration. Claims 4-11 are allowed. Claims 1 and 2 stand rejected. Claim 3 has been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Favorable reconsideration of the application is requested in view of the amendments and comments herein.

I. Rejection of Claim 1 Under 35 U.S.C. §102(a)

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as being anticipated by U.S. 6,026,379 to Haller, et al. ("Haller"). Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested for at least the following reasons.

Haller discloses a gateway that mediates transactions between merchants' servers and a payment processor (See Haller, Col. 89, lines 14-16). The "gateway" disclosed in Haller does not correspond to a Virtual Private Network (VPN) extranet gateway as recited in claim 1. The gateway in Haller accepts transactions from merchant servers and converts them into legacy compatible formats before forwarding them to a payment (legacy) processor. Haller further teaches that responses from the payment processor, after appropriate reverse conversions have been performed, will be returned to the merchant servers (See Haller, Col. 89, lines 36-42). Unlike the VPN extranet gateway recited in claim 1, the gateway disclosed in Haller requires special programming for each different legacy host (See, *e.g.*, Background section of the subject patent application). In fact, Haller discloses that the message conversions performed by the gateway will be significantly more than format transliterations, and that per-protocol differences in data elements and messages must be considered fully (See Haller, Col. 90, lines 5-8). In contrast, claim 1 recites a system that allows communication between legacy client software and a legacy application in a public key infrastructure. The VPN extranet gateway recited in claim 1 requests a signature certificate of a requesting user, and queries a directory to determine if the user is allowed to access the legacy server. If the user is allowed to access the legacy server, the

VPN extranet gateway then establishes a connection between the legacy client software and the legacy application. In claim 1, no special programming is required for different legacy applications because the connection established in claim 1 allows the legacy client software and the legacy application to communicate seamlessly.

Further, claim 1 recites at least one client platform operatively connected to a network, the at least one client platform containing legacy client software employable by at least one user to access the at least one legacy application. The merchant servers disclosed in Haller do not correspond to the client platform recited in claim 1. Haller does not disclose that the merchant servers contain legacy client software as recited in claim 1. In fact, Fig. 22 of Haller discloses that the merchant servers communicate with the gateway employing either SET or HTTPS protocols. Since, as discussed above, Haller discloses that the gateway accepts transactions from merchant servers and converts them into legacy compatible formats before forwarding them to a legacy processor, legacy client software is not needed on the merchant servers. Accordingly, Haller does not disclose the system recited in claim 1.

For the reasons described above, claim 1 should be patentable over the cited art. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested. Claim 2 is depends from claim 1 and is patentable for substantially the same reasons as claim 1.

III. Allowable Subject Matter

Claim 3 has been rewritten in independent form and is allowable.

Claims 4-11 have been allowed.

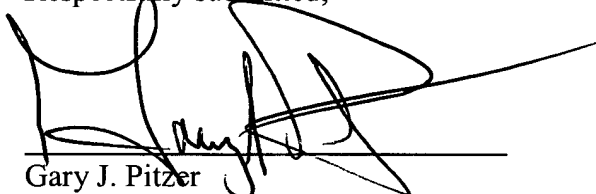
IV. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing remarks and amendments, Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application and that the application be passed to issue.

If the Examiner has any questions or if the Applicant or its representative can be of any assistance in connection with the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited and encouraged to contact the undersigned at the number identified below.

A check in the amount of \$88.00 is submitted herewith for payment of one independent claim in excess of three. Please charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment in the fees for this amendment or any other prosecution associated with this application to our Deposit Account No. 20-0090.

Respectfully submitted,



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